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1951



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Borough of

Clifton Dartmouth Hardness

A. DICK, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

V. E. HUGHES, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.
Sanitary Inspector,
Meat and Foods Inspector, Etc.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1951.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness.*

Mr. Mayor, Lady Councillor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The health of the Borough has been very satisfactory, for although there were a much greater number of notifiable infections (201 as against 29 last year) the conditions were generally mild, and, apart from three cases of Pneumonia there were no deaths.

The large fall in the Birth Rate which occurred in 1950 has been partially compensated by a rise from 12·22 to 13·70 per thousand. The Death Rate is larger, and this is chiefly due to causes associated with stress and strain and old age.

I am greatly indebted to my colleague Mr. Hughes, the Sanitary Inspector, for much help and co-operation at all times.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Based on the Registrar General's figures.

1.

| | | | |
|---|-------|------|---------|
| Area in acres | ... | ... | 1925 |
| Population—census 1931 (April) | ... | ... | 6707 |
| Registrar-General's estimated resident population | 1949, | 6323 | |
| | 1951, | 6131 | |
| Number of inhabited houses, 1950 | ... | ... | 1715 |
| Number of inhabited houses, 1951 | ... | ... | 1768 |
| Rateable value | ... | ... | £53,112 |
| Sum represented by ld. rate | ... | ... | £214 |

2.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.

| | | Total | Male | Female |
|--|-----|-------|------|--------|
| Live Births | ... | 84 | 40 | 44 |
| Legitimate | ... | 80 | 37 | 43 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Still Births | ... | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Legitimate | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Crude Birth rate per thousand estimated resident population | ... | | | 13.70 |
| Comparability Factor | ... | | | 1.15 |
| Corrected Birth Rate | ... | | | 15.75 |
| | | Total | Male | Female |
| Deaths | ... | 118 | 64 | 54 |
| Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population | ... | | | 19.24 |
| Comparability Factor | ... | | | 0.84 |
| Standardised Death Rate | ... | | | 16.16 |
| Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth: | | | | |
| Puerperal Sepsis : | ... | | | 0 |
| Other Puerperal Causes | ... | | | 0 |
| | | Total | Male | Female |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year of age | | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Legitimate | ... | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age | | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Legitimate | ... | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Death rate of infants per 1000 live births | ... | | | 23.80 |

Causes of Death during 1951.

| | Total | Male | Female |
|--|-------|------|--------|
| Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System .. | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Other Forms of Tuberculosis .. | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Syphilitic disease ... | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria ... | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Congh ... | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Mening-coccal infections ... | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ... | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Measles ... | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Other inf. and parasitic dis. ... | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| " " lung, bronchus ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| " " breast ... | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| " " uterus ... | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms | 11 | 6 | 5 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Diabetes ... | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system ... | 16 | 6 | 10 |
| Coronary disease, angina ... | 12 | 9 | 3 |
| Hypertension with heart disease ... | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Other heart disease ... | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| Other circulatory disease ... | 12 | 5 | 7 |
| Influenza ... | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Pneumonia ... | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Bronchitis ... | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system .. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nephritis and nephrosis ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Congenital malformations ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... | 19 | 8 | 11 |
| Motor vehicle accidents ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| All other accidents ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Suicide ... | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Homicide and operations of war ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| All causes | Total | 118 | 64 |

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Full details of the sanitary circumstances are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Sampling for cleanliness testing continued to be undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Periodic sampling for presence of Tubercle infection has continued.

Ice Cream.

Examination of samples by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter has continued. Ice Cream is graded as follows :—

| Provisional Grade. | Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue | Interpretation |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | 4½ hours or more. | Satisfactory. |
| 2. | 2½ to 4 hours. | Fair |
| 3. | ½ to 2 hours. | Unsatisfactory |
| 4. | 0. | Very Bad |

Your Officers investigate and advise in all cases where satisfactory results are not obtained. It should be noted that the chemical and bacteriological testing of ice cream is still on trial in a scientific sense and has not reached that stage of being able to be used in the taking of statutory action.

Meat.

It is still satisfactory to note that the percentage of tuberculosis meat found upon meat inspection at the Abattoir is not higher than that for the Country generally.

Water Supplies.

Supply has been adequate. Chlorination has been continued at the main source as a final treatment after filtration. By maintaining a relatively high dosage of chlorine, the Water Engineer has managed to obtain a final satisfactory drinking water, and I am indebted to him for copies of the bacteriological reports from samples which he has taken monthly.

There are 46 properties scattered about the Borough which get their supply of water from private sources. The majority of these sources of supply are from shallow springs or wells situated invariably on agricultural land and are, with the exception of one, unfiltered and unchlorinated. Numerous samples taken throughout the year have revealed very little evidence of bacterial contamination. In one case it was recommended that further habitation was inadvisable.

Housing.

Housing details and visits made are noted in the report by the Sanitary Inspector. In addition visits have been made by your M.O.H. in connection with applications for rehousing recommended upon medical grounds by certificates from general medical practitioners.

Notifiable Diseases.

| | Total cases Notified |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 1 |
| Measles | 40 |
| Whooping Cough | 54 |
| Chicken Pox | 88 |
| Poliomyelitis | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 16 |
| Malaria | 1 |
| | — |
| | 201 |
| | — |

There were 4 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified.

I have the honour to be, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. DICK,

M.D., CH.B., D.H.

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

To The Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Lady Councillor & Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1951.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act or Housing Acts) | ..... | ..... | ..... | 205 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | | | | 693 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included in the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 | ..... | ..... |  | 7 |
| (3) | | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ..... | ..... |  | 5 |
| (4) | | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ..... | ..... | ..... | 88 |

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

| | | | |
|---|-------|-------|----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | | | 69 |
|---|-------|-------|----|

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

| | |
|---|----|
| (a) Proceedings, under Section 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :— | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices : | |
| (a) By Owners | 3 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |
| (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :— | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requesting defects to be remedied | 12 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :— | |
| (a) By Owners | 10 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | 2 |
| (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :— | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 4 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 3 |
| (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :— | |
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 3 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 1 |

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART VI. OVERCROWDING.

| | |
|--|---|
| (a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year | 0 |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein | 0 |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein | 0 |

| | | | | | |
|---------|--|-------|-------|-------|----|
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ..... | ..... | ..... | 28 |
| (c) (1) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| (2) | Number of persons concerned in such cases | | | | 17 |
| (d) | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | ..... | ..... |  | 0 |
| (e) | Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report | ..... |  |  | 0 |

COMPLAINTS.

160 complaints were received and dealt with during the year.

205 Houses were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

ABRIDGED SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED AND INSPECTED.

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Roofs | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 56 |
| External Walls | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 25 |
| Internal Plastering |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 30 |
| Ceilings |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 14 |
| Floors | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 18 |
| Windows |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 23 |
| Fireplaces |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 13 |
| Doors | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 |
| Chimneys |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 18 |
| Washboilers |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Premises cleansed |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 11 |
| Bins provided | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 8 |
| DRAINAGE :— | | | | | | |
| Inspections made |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 63 |
| Tests carried out | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 34 |
| Drains repaired | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 30 |
| Gullies provided or renewed |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 11 |
| Sinks | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 23 |
| Rainwater pipes and gutters |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 30 |
| Water closets provided, repaired or renewed |  |  |  |  | ..... | 17 |
| Cisterns repaired or renewed |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6 |
| New Drains laid (excluding new properties) |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 25 |
| Inspection chambers built or repaired |  |  | ..... | ..... | ..... | 13 |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are five registered dairies in the Borough, two of which are equipped with 100 gallon pasteurising plants of the holder type. These have worked well during the year. Most of the milk consumed is now either tuberculin tested or pasteurised. Frequent sampling has been continued throughout the year both for the tuberculin and methylene blue tests. 35 samples were tested for tuberculosis and all gave a negative result. Out of 42 samples submitted for the methylene blue cleanliness tests five failed, these were referred to the Milk Production Officer for investigation on the farms concerned. All the milk supplied to schools is pasteurised, and samples taken proved satisfactory.

(b) FOOD PREMISES.

369 visits were made to various food premises throughout the town. 21 informal notices were issued for rectification of minor infringements of The Food and Drugs Act ; all these were promptly complied with. The general standard of hygiene shewed a steady improvement throughout the year.

| | | | | Inspections. | Informal Notices issued |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Markets ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 30 | — |
| Cafes ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 64 | 5 |
| Bakehouses ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 34 | 4 |
| Hotels ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 48 | 3 |
| Ice Cream Premises ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 47 | 1 |
| Fish Shops ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 16 | 2 |
| Canteens ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 15 | 1 |
| Butchers ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 55 | — |
| Fruit and Grocery ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 60 | 5 |

(c) MEAT INSPECTION.

Slaughterhouses—There are three slaughterhouses in the district, two private (which have been closed since control started) and one municipally owned abattoir which is now used by the Ministry of Food as a slaughtering centre for Dartmouth and considerable surrounding district. In addition to meat condemned at the Abattoir there was 103-lbs. of meat and various tinned foods condemned at shops. There was noted a decrease in the percentage of cattle ex cows found on post mortem inspection, at the Abattoir, to be affected with tuberculosis, cows only shewed an

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|--|-----------------------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
| Number killed | 747 | 408 | 393 | 4530 | 311 |
| Number Inspected | 747 | 408 | 393 | 4530 | 311 |
| All Diseases Except Tuberculosis : | | | | | |
| Whole Carcasses condemned | 5 | 10 | 20 | 35 | 5 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 313 | 200 | 10 | 708 | 24 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis | 42.57% | 51.47% | 7.63% | 16.4% | 9.32% |
| Tuberculosis only : | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 4 | 17 | — | — | 2 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 15 | 57 | — | — | 23 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | 2.53% | 18.13% | — | — | 8/03% |

increase. The practice has been continued during the year of notifying the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Staff of all tuberculous animals discovered. In this way a follow up can be made on the farms from whence the affected animals came. This has also been done in the case of animals found to be affected with *cysticercus bovis*. Some three hundred and ten casualty animals were dealt with and inspected during the year. Very few of these were accompanied by a veterinary certificate. Much could be done to reduce this number by compulsory veterinary inspection on the farm of all casualty animals prior to despatch to the Abattoir. In my opinion this is a very necessary safeguard to prevent the spread of infection of animal borne diseases.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Foods submitted for analysis during the year included beef dripping, synthetic cream, pineapple drink, beef sausage, table jelly, draught vinegar and milk, all these were declared genuine.

ICE CREAM.

The following samples were submitted to the County Laboratory :—

| Total. | Grade 1. | Grade 2. | Grade 3. | Grade 4. |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 30 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 2 |

Frequent inspections have been made of the 17 premises registered for the sale or manufacture of ice cream. There are now only two premises where manufacture of this commodity is continued, one by the heat treatment method and the other by the complete cold mix. All other dealers obtain supplies from manufacturers outside the town. Whenever poor samples are taken from these sources they are referred to the Officers of the Local Authority concerned so that a check can be made at the place of manufacture.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948.

See tables 1 and 2.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

| Premises | M/C line No. | Number on Register. | Inspections. | No. of Written Notices. | Occupiers Prosecuted. | M/C line No. |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
| (i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 1 | 3 | — | — | — | 1 |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 2 | 39 | 65 | 7 | — | 2 |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Author- ity (excluding out-workers premises) | 3 | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Total | — | 42 | 65 | 7 | — | — |

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

| Particulars | M/C line | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | No. of cases in which | M/C line No. |
|--|-------------|--|----------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| | | Found | Remedied | Referred | | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (8) |
| | | | | To H.M. By H.M. prosecutions Inspector Inspector were instituted | | |
| Want of Cleanliness (51) | ..... | 4 | 5 | — | 1 | 4 |
| Overcrowding (52) | ..... | 5 | — | — | — | 5 |
| Unreasonable Temperature (53) | ..... | 6 | — | — | — | 6 |
| Inadequate Ventilation (54) | | 7 | — | — | — | 7 |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (56) | ..... | 8 | — | — | — | 8 |

| Particulars | M/C line | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | No. of cases in which | M/C line |
|---|-------------|--|----------|----------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| | | Found | Remedied | Referred | | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
| | | | | | | (8) |
| Sanitary Conveniences (57) | | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 9 | — | — | — | — | 9 |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 10 | 2 | 2 | — | 1 | 10 |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 11 | — | — | — | — | 11 |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) | | | | | | |
| | 12 | — | — | — | — | 12 |
| Total | 60 | 7 | 7 | — | 2 | 60 |

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.
REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1951.

| | Type of Property | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|-----------|
| | Local Authority | Dwelling Houses | Agri-cultural | All other (including Business and Industrial) | Total |
| I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2) | 10 | 1640 | 20 | 257 | 1927 |
| II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise (Notes 1, 2 and 3) | (a) — (b) 4 | 34 105 | — 1 | 17 73 | 51 183 |
| III. Number of properties (under 11) found to be infested by rats (Notes 1, 2 and 3) | Major 1 Minor 3 | — 20 | — 1 | 11 — | 12 24 |
| IV. Number of properties (under 11) found to be seriously infested by mice (Notes 1, 2 and 3) | — | 12 | — | 3 | 15 |
| V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority (Notes 1, 2 and 3) | 4 | 33 | 1 | 17 | 55 |

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACTS, 1949—Contd.

| | Type of Property | | | | Total |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|-------|
| | Local Authority | Dwelling Houses | Agric- cultural | All other (including Business and Industrial) | |
| VI. Number of notices served under Sec. 4 : (1) Treatment | — | — | — | — | — |
| (2) Structural Works (<i>i.e.</i> Proofing) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 12 | 204 | 3 | 121 | 340 |
| VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4 | — | — | — | — | — |
| VIII. Legal Proceedings | — | — | — | — | — |
| IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out | 3 | — | — | — | — |

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

One operator is engaged jointly between Dartmouth and Brixham, working alternate weeks for each Authority.

During the year visits have been carried out as follows :

| | | | | | |
|---|---|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Private Premises | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 206 |
| Business Premises | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 125 |
| Local Authority Refuse Tip, Abattoir, Housing Estates, etc. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 386 |
| Local Authority Sewers. | One maintenance treatment was carried out. Infestation was found to be very slight. | | | | |
| Estimated kill : Rats | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 675 |
| Mice | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 245 |

SCHOOLS.

School milk (pasteurised) is supplied by two Dairymen in Dartmouth, both these supplies were sampled and found satisfactory.

The Town is fortunate in having a modern and well-equipped cooking centre for school meals. A very high standard of hygiene is continually maintained.

DISINFECTION.

During the year the old steam disinfecter which has been in service for something like 40 years was found on dismantling for inspection to be beyond repair. It was therefore found necessary to instal a new disinfecter of modern design. This machine (of 60 cubic feet capacity) is proving highly satisfactory. Some 89 mattresses and articles of bedding, etc., have been treated.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

A review of all premises in the Borough using filling materials was made and only one was required to be registered under the new Act.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Periodic inspections have been made during the year and notices were served for the following :—

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|---|
| Provision of Sanitary Accommodation | ..... | 3 |
| Provision of Additional Ventilation | ..... | 4 |

PETROLEUM & EXPLOSIVES ACTS.

One new underground storage tank of 1,000 gallons capacity was installed during the year. This installation was inspected and subjected to an air pressure test at 8lbs. per sq. in. for a period of 12 hours before a recommendation for a licence was made.

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of licenses granted to store Petroleum | 11 |
| Number of licenses granted to store Mixed | |
| Explosives | 11 |

GAME DEALERS' LICENCES.

There were three licences granted during the year authorising the dealing in game.

In concluding this report I should like to express my thanks to colleagues in other departments, particularly the Borough Engineer and his staff, for their help and co-operation.

V. E. HUGHES, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector,

Meat and Foods Inspector, etc.

